

HOUSE RESOLUTION 58
By Pruitt

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Maurice Fitzgerald on leading the Pearl-Cohn High School football team to the 1996 Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class 4-A state championship.

WHEREAS, under the outstanding guidance of Coach Maurice Fitzgerald, the Pearl-Cohn High School football team has overcome tremendous adversity to win the 1996 Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class 4-A state championship; and

WHEREAS, in the title game, the Cinderella Firebirds beat heavily favored Knoxville Halls 18-14; and

WHEREAS, Coach Fitzgerald was selected *Nashville Banner* All-Metro Coach of the Year, *Tennessean* All-Midstate Coach of the Year and the Tennessee Sports Writers Association All-State 4-A Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, he is fondly remembered as a valued member of the Hume Fogg High School football team; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a great coach, Coach Fitzgerald is also the proud father of Buck Fitzgerald, the sensational senior quarterback for the Firebirds, who received the prestigious Hume Award and finished in the top third of his class academically; and

WHEREAS, most importantly, Coach Fitzgerald is a mentor to his team and other students. He has said: "You can look at our football team and draw parallels to the life situation

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facing most of these kids. We had no history of success. We'd play, struggle, maybe make the playoffs and lose. This year we proved that you don't have to follow history, that you can make history, that you can make changes and do things that give you a chance for something better.

Look at the background of some of these kids. They've never had much of a foundation to build on, and they've never had much hope that their lives were going to be different. If we can just help one kid, it's worth our effort."; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the exemplary coaching this season of Maurice Fitzgerald be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor and congratulate Coach Maurice Fitzgerald on leading the Pearl-Cohn High School Firebirds to the 1996 TSSAA Class 4-A state football championship and wish him well in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Coach Fitzgerald, with this final clause omitted from such copy.